

LEGAL NOTICE
Chetco Bar Fire Salvage Project Environmental Assessment
30-Day Notice and Comment Period for a
Request for an Emergency Situation Determination

The Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Gold Beach Ranger District is requesting an Emergency Situation Determination (ESD) for the Chetco Bar Fire Salvage Project. An ESD has been requested from the Chief of the USDA Forest Service, Washington Office (36 CFR 218.21). An ESD is requested when a situation on National Forest System (NFS) lands for which immediate implementation of a decision is necessary to achieve one or more of the following: Relief from hazards threatening human health and safety; mitigation of threats to natural resources on NFS or adjacent lands; avoiding a loss of commodity value sufficient to jeopardize the agency's ability to accomplish project objectives directly related to resource protection or restoration. If the ESD is approved, the Chetco Bar Fire Salvage project shall not be subject to the predecisional objection process and implementation of the selected alternative may proceed immediately after notification when the decision is documented in a Decision Notice (36 CFR 218.21(d)(1)).

Written, facsimile (FAX), hand-delivered, and electronic comments concerning the ESD request will be accepted for 30 calendar days following publication of this notice in the newspaper of record for the Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, the Medford Mail Tribune, Medford Oregon. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period for this proposal. Those wishing to comment on the ESD request should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source.

Submit your comments concerning the ESD request to: Jessie Berner, Chetco Bar Coordinator/Powers District Ranger, 29,279 Ellensburg Ave., Gold Beach, Oregon 97444, or facsimile comments to: 541-247-3641. Hand-delivered comments may be delivered to the Gold Beach Ranger Station or the Rogue River Siskiyou National Forest, Medford Interagency Office and must be submitted during business hours, 8:00 am-11:30 am and 12:30 pm-4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. Electronic comments must be submitted to comments-pacificnorthwest-siskiyou-goldbeach@fs.fed.us. Those submitting electronic comments must do so only to the email address listed above, must put the project name in the subject line, and must either submit comments as part of the e-mail message or as an attachment only in one of three formats: Microsoft Word, rich text format (rtf), or Portable Document Format (pdf). E-mails submitted to e-mail addresses other than the one listed above, in other formats than those listed, or containing viruses will be rejected. Only those timely and specific written comments regarding the ESD request during this public comment period will be considered in the development of the project. It is the responsibility of persons providing comments to submit them by the close of the comment period and ensure that their comments have been received. Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be part of the public record for this project and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not afford the Agency the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents.

The project was previously released for scoping comments and the environmental assessment (EA) 30-day legal notice of public comment. Comments and submittals already received during the previously conducted public scoping and 30-day comment period on the EA are part of the record and have been considered during the development of the Project. Comments and submittals received during those designated periods need not be re-submitted.

The Chetco Bar Fire Salvage Project proposes to salvage harvest 4,690 acres burned in the 191,197-acre Chetco Bar Fire. The project is located in Curry County approximately 11 miles northeast of the city of Brookings, Oregon and approximately 12 miles southeast of the city of Gold Beach, Oregon; within portions of the Chetco and Pistol River watersheds. The purpose of the Chetco Bar Fire Salvage project is to capture timber value in the matrix land allocations by harvesting dead, dying and/or damaged trees. Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Supervisor Merv George is the Responsible Official for this project. The EA can be accessed on the Forest Service website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=53150> when you click on the analysis tab. Additional project information can be obtained by contacting Lori Bailey at the Emigrant Creek Ranger District, 265 Hwy 20 South, Hines, Oregon 97738, 541-573-4366, or by email at comments-pacificnorthwest-siskiyou-goldbeach@fs.fed.us.

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